THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Recommendations are received regularly from MPs for allotment of RO, SKO-LDO dealership and LPG distributorships to various persons. However, allotments from discretionary quota are made only in deserving cases on compassionate grounds.

(b) The number of dealerships/distributorship allotted on compassionate grounds under the discretionary powers of the Government during 1992-93 and 1993-94 is as given below :

1992-93	113
1993-94	118

Transport of Gas from Bombay to Southern Grid

1187. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally decided to transport gas from Bombay High to Southern Grid;

(b) the extent of surplus Bombay High gas available to be transported to the Southern Grid;

(c) whether gas from other sources in the Western Region is also to be transported to Southern Grid; and

(d) whether the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat have been impressing on Central Govt. the economy of utilising the gas locally and to avoid transport cost, if so, what schemes, have been submitted by them for local use of the gas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The concept of laying a gas pipeline from the Western Offshore to the Southern region has been approved in principle. The proposal envisages the use of surplus gas from the Western Offshore supplemented by gas imported from the Middle-East.

(d) The Government of Maharashtra have proposed a new gas terminal at Usar.

Loan for Hydrocarbon sector from ADB

1188. SHRI AHMED MOHMED BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether second tranche of the two hundred fifty million dollar hydrocarbon sector loan from the ADB has been delayed further due to the Government's failure to meet a major conditionality;

(b) if so, what are the conditions that have not been fully met by the ONGC;

(c) if so, whether ONGC has intimated that dilution of its equity can not be completed before December, 1994;

(d) if so, whether they have also submitted that only 10 per cent equity can be diluted upto June 1994;

(e) if so, to what extent it will distrub the hydro carbon sector programme;

(f) how much loan has so far been granted and utilised from 1991 onwards;

(g) what amount is still pending from ADB; and

(h) what steps the Central Govt. propose to take to obtain the ADB loan for ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The drawal of second tranche of $ US 125 million has been deferred pending completion of action relating to conversion of ONGC into a public limited company and the dilution of its expanded equity to the extent of 20%.

(c) and (d) The modalities for dilution of equity would be based on statutory provisions and keeping the commercial interest of ONGC in mind.

(e) The hydrocarbon sector programme will not be affected.

(f) to (h) The loan is to the Government of India and not to the ONGC. So far, an amount of US $ 125 million has been drawn and an amount of US $125 millions yet to be drawn.

Import Bill for Natural Gas

1189. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJARAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :